

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): In snowboarding equipment that includes a snowboard, two boots, one boot for each of two feet of a snowboarder, and two bindings, each binding designed to secure one boot to the snowboard, a safety device comprising

a binding support platform fashioned to enable fastening of both bindings, the bindings being fastened to the binding support platform rather than to the snowboard, and a platform retention assembly that is fashioned to be fastened to the snowboard, the platform retention assembly including a plurality of preloaded compliant members that form interfaces with contours on the binding support platform, said interfaces preventing the binding support platform from separating from the platform retention assembly except when a force or torque applied to the snowboard exceeds a set threshold, and

the platform retention assembly including a plurality of firm features that contact firm mating features of the binding support platform, said plurality of firm features including all such firm features on the platform retention assembly that contact firm mating features of the binding support platform.

said firm features and firm mating features being arranged such that the contacts between them that limit relative in-plane translation, when projected onto the plane of the snowboard, are all tangent about one mutual center point.

Claim 2 (original): The safety device of claim 1, wherein all of the preloaded compliant members of said platform retention assembly are located in an inner region between the bindings.

Claim 3 (original): The safety device of claim 2, wherein each preloaded compliant member provides a force to one or more of said interfaces and all of the forces can be simultaneously adjusted by adjusting the position of one centrally located component.

Claim 4 (original): The safety device of claim 1, wherein the binding support platform includes a surface that covers or partially covers the preloaded compliant members of the platform retention assembly.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (original): The safety device of claim 1 wherein said firm features of the platform retention assembly are firm features of one or more plates that are components of the platform retention assembly.

Claim 7 (original): The safety device of claim 1 wherein said platform retention assembly includes two distinct underlying plate pieces, each being fastened to the snowboard.

Claim 8 (original): The safety device of claim 1 wherein the platform retention assembly includes three or more preloaded compliant members.

Claim 9 (original): The safety device of claim 1 wherein said contours include facets that facilitate forcible reattachment of the binding support platform onto the platform retention assembly.

Claims 10-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously added): The safety device of claim 2 wherein said platform retention assembly includes at least two plate pieces that are fastened to the snowboard, and wherein at least two of the plate pieces are in sliding contact with each other at a joint that permits relative longitudinal motion but constrains relative lateral or vertical motion.

Claim 21 (previously added): In snowboarding equipment that includes a snowboard, two boots, one boot for each of two feet of a snowboarder, and two bindings, each binding designed to secure one boot to the snowboard, a safety device comprising:

a binding support platform fashioned to enable fastening of both bindings, the bindings being fastened to the binding support platform rather than to the snowboard; and a platform retention assembly that is fashioned to be fastened to the snowboard; the platform retention assembly including a plurality of preloaded compliant members that form interfaces with contours on the binding support platform; said interfaces preventing the binding support platform from separating from the platform retention assembly except when a force or torque applied to the snowboard exceeds a set threshold; and the platform retention assembly including a plurality of firm features that contact firm mating features of the binding support platform; said firm features and firm mating features being arranged such that the contacts between them that limit relative in-plane translation, when projected onto the plane of the snowboard, are all tangent about one mutual center point; and wherein the preloaded compliant members of said platform retention assembly are located in two peripheral regions, one peripheral region located closer to the leading edge of the snowboard than either of the bindings, and the other peripheral region located closer to the trailing edge of the snowboard than either of the bindings.

Claim 22 (previously added): The safety device of claim **21** wherein said firm features of the platform retention assembly are firm features of one or more plates that are components of the platform retention assembly.

Claim 23 (previously added): The safety device of claim **21** wherein said platform retention assembly includes two distinct underlying plate pieces, each being fastened to the snowboard.

Claim 24 (previously added): The safety device of claim **21** wherein the platform retention assembly includes three or more preloaded compliant members.

Claim 25 (previously added): The safety device of claim **21** wherein said contours include facets that facilitate forcible reattachment of the binding support platform onto the platform retention assembly.

Claim 26 (previously added): The safety device of claim **22** wherein said one or more plates comprise at least two distinct plate pieces that are not in contact with each other, each being fastened to the snowboard.